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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HERB KOHL, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth. Long before the birth of the mountains, You have always been God, sustaining the universe with Your commands. Although life's challenges sometimes prompt us to feel that we are rearranging furniture in a burning building, we take comfort in the knowledge that You hear and answer prayer.

We thank You that our lawmakers are striving to find common ground. While work remains to be done, empower them to discover opportunities in this current crisis to build permanent bridges of cooperation as they remember that with many counselors there is safety.

Bless the members of their staffs, who have labored diligently so that we can see the beginnings of a rainbow after the storm. May the sometime unsung heroes and heroines know that You will reward their faithfulness.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HERB KOHL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HERB KOHL, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KOHL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627, which is the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase.

The Senate will recess from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. When the Senate reconvenes at 12:30, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senate expects to vote on the compromise we have reached, hopefully, during today's session. When the vote is scheduled, Senators will be notified.

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes with the Senate and the American people to talk to them about this great body in which we serve. I know there are all kinds of pundits and commentators who talk about how the "system is broken." They point to what has been going on in Washington in the last few months and say it shows that we need a com-

plete change in the way we enact laws; that it just doesn't work anymore, and what is going on is terrible, awful.

I want to take a few minutes and historically review what our country is all about.

In the summer of 1787, the Founding Fathers were meeting in Philadelphia, and they were having a very difficult time. They had tried a number of ways in the past to keep the country together. They had the Articles of Confederation. They knew it wasn't appropriate; it wasn't working.

In June of 1787, a delegate from Connecticut came to a conclusion, and he had an idea that he would suggest to other members in the delegation—the Founding Fathers—about how they could come up with a constitution. That is why they were there.

His suggestion was full of merit because they had not been able to solve the problem of the great State of New York, a huge area with millions of people, and the little State of Connecticut, a very small area and a few people—how could those two States be together in the same Union? They had already decided they were going to have three separate branches of government. But the problems they had in Philadelphia those many years ago was how to handle the legislative branch.

The delegate from Connecticut came up with what was called the Great Compromise. His suggestion became part of our Constitution and allowed the Constitution to become real. His suggestion was that we would have one body of the legislature, the House of Representatives, that would be elected every 2 years. If someone died, there would have to be an election. No one in the history of our country has gotten to be a Member of the House without having been elected by their constituents.

The Senate, however, would not be representative of how many people were in the State. Each State would get the same number. That was the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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